DECLARATION OF HUI MALAMA LOKO I'A

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2012

To express support for the development of an interagency programmatic agreement and related documents for the purpose of obtaining a state programmatic general permit and streamlining the permitting process for the restoration, protection, preservation, perpetuation, traditional and customary use, and/or maintenance of loko i'a (traditional Hawaiian fishpond systems) and their related biocultural resources and habitats across the paeaina o Hawai'i.

WHEREAS, loko i'a are wholly unique sustainable aquaculture systems found nowhere else in the world; and

WHEREAS, loko i'a have many important lessons for modern aquaculture; and

WHEREAS, traditional loko i'a are an essential tool in the restoration of depleted coastal fish populations and fisheries;

WHEREAS, loko i'a are essential features of healthy and sustainable ahupua'a based ecosystems throughout Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, loko i'a can significantly contribute to healthy and sustainable food security and food sovereignty in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, the restoration and reuse of loko i'a provide an opportunity to increase community-based sustainable economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian fishponds are critical and essential sites of learning, traditional and ancestral knowledge, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education, cultural practice, healthy physical activity, and community fellowship; and

WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian fishponds offer important opportunities for communities to engage in the sustainable management of cultural and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian fishponds and their surrounding environments are habitats for native species and significantly contribute to biodiversity and natural resource conservation in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian fishponds provide significant ecological services to coastal and terrestrial environments; and

WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian fishponds can play a role in mitigating the local impacts of sea level rise and coastal inundation; and
to begin a comprehensive initiative to streamline the permit process for restoration of Hawaiian fishponds;

WHEREAS, representatives from these same agencies attended the 5th conference of Hui Malama Loko Ia to obtain support, guidance, data and input from traditional fishpond practitioners for this comprehensive initiative;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN FISHPOND PRACTITIONERS AND MEMBERS OF HUI MALAMA LOKO I'A, express support for the development of an interagency programmatic agreement and related documents for the purpose of obtaining a state programmatic general permit and streamlining the permitting process for the restoration, protection, preservation, perpetuation, traditional and customary use, and/or maintenance of loko i'a (traditional Hawaiian fishpond systems) and their related biocultural resources and habitats across the paeaina o Hawaii.

DECLARED, in the ahupua'a of Walpa, on the island of Kauai, in the paeaina o Hawaii, this second, third and fourth day of November, 2012.

[Signatures and printed names of individuals]
Signature
Printed Name
Lima Holoholo Goda Country Warriors
Fishpond/Organization

Cheryse Sana
Printed Name
Ma'io Organics Farms
Fishpond/Organization

Lea Webber
Printed Name
Halulu/Wa'apa Foundation
Fishpond/Organization

A. Chandler
Printed Name
Wa'apa
Fishpond/Organization

Chandler Forrest
Printed Name
Ma'io Organics Farms
Fishpond/Organization

Kahiau Wallace
Printed Name
Huilua/Horala Aina Kupono
Fishpond/Organization

Kekaulike P. Tomich
Printed Name
Kiho'a/TVC
Fishpond/Organization

Chris Cramer
Printed Name
Mauna Loa Fishpond Heritage Cafe
Fishpond/Organization

Kealohi Leota
Printed Name
Hu'iliu, Kahana
Fishpond/Organization

Emeka Leota
Printed Name
Hu'iliu, Kahana
Fishpond/Organization